January 23, 1961

Mr. Joseph P. Webb
The Upjohn Company
Clinical Research
Clinical Pharmacology Section
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Dear Mr. Webb:

Thank you for your letter of January 16.

I feel that for many purposes it would be advantageous to have a completely soluble filter - to be sure of the complete dispersion of trapped organisms, to enable the organisms to be separated from the filter by centrifugation and washing, and particularly for purposes of microscopic examination of the trapped dust. Ideally one would like a filter to which one could add water or another innocuous solvent and which could then be evaporated to give a homogeneous clear film in which any dust was clearly visualized. At any rate, some of my own intended applications would have this requirement.

To illustrate a related application that would involve the same principle, suppose that one wanted to obtain the relative viable count of air-borne organisms. This would necessitate both the accurate dispersion of viable organisms and a means of visualizing all organisms be they live or dead.

I would appreciate it if you could furnish some Gelfoam samples that have not been heated and are still fully soluble. An important factor apart from sterility will be the clarity of the solutions of these filter materials. But I assume that you have a related problem in manufacturing filters that will be completely nontoxic andnon-irritating. If your material is not suited, it may be necessary for us to fabricate our own pads from specially clarified gelatin solutions. Indeed, it might be particularly helpful if we could apply to you for a sample of the particularly pure gelatin that you must use in your manufacture of Gelfoam.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics